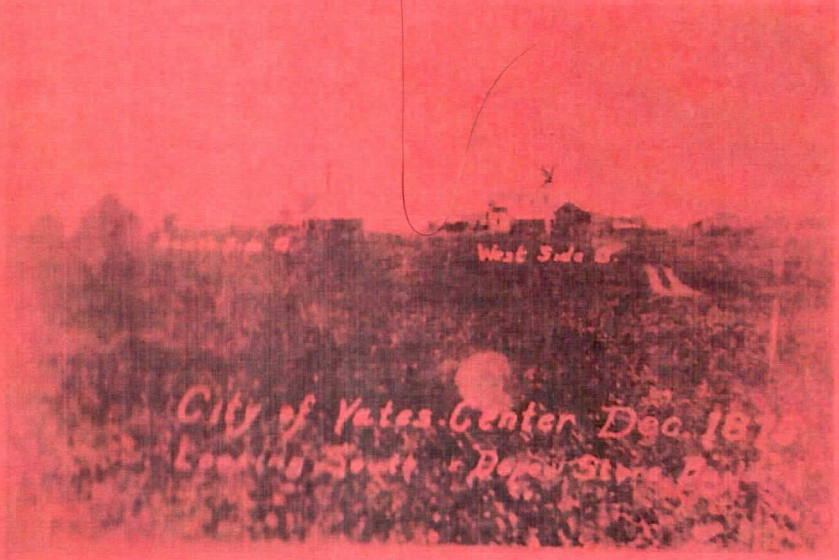
IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By

Woodson County Historical Society

Yates Center, Kansas

Vol. 4 No. 16

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 4 - No. 16 October - 1971

Lester A. Harding - Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES—

It hardly seems possible, but with this issue it will be the end of four years of IN THE BEGINNING. We have had 25 books of the first eight issues of IN THE BEGINNING (Volumes 1 & 2), bound into a hard back book. For those who have their first eight issues and would like to trade them in the book would cost $4.75. The cost of one of these books is $8.00, if you do not trade any in. This seems rather high, but so is everything else. These books are neatly bound in blue cloth and made an attractive addition to any library.

If this box is checked with red you will know that your subscription expires with this issue. The subscription to most will expire with this issue, but if our subscribers could send in their remittance of $2.00 by the first of the year (1972), we would appreciate it very much.

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THE COVER PICTURE - The picture on the front of this issue carries the date of Dec. 1875, and mentioned Depew's store building. We believe however that this picture was in 1876, as the town was not plotted until August 16, 1875. The building marked as 1 is where the Baker Drug Store now is, and was the first store building moved to Yates Center from Kalida. The store was operated by T. W. Wilson who had operated a store at Kalida. On June 12, 1876, the first postoffice was established with T. W. Wilson as postmaster. Wilson sold his stock of goods to J. W. Depew who moved it to the west side of the square, to the building marked with an X. The picture seems a little out of proportion as the first house moved into Yates Center from Kalida was a small frame building moved here by Henry Wille and was located where the Woodson Hotel now is. That would be the building just to the north of Depews store. To the right center of the picture can be a wagon trail about where State Street now is. The building where the Baker Drug Store now is was moved here by Abner Yates. The building was not only used as a store and postoffice, but was used for church services. It was also used for county purposes as the courthouse was not moved here from Defiance until 1878.

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IN THE BEGINNING

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

Except on special occasions the Woodson County Historical Museum was not opened to the public until July 3 and 4. And only Saturdays and Sundays after that.

The main reason for the Museum not opening sooner or full time was because of the Mary Street- U.S. 54 that goes by the Museum has been in the process of re-building for the past two years. It is scheduled to be finished this fall and when finished will be a fine four lane highway through Yates Center.

While it is more generally referred to as U.S. 54, the street was originally named Mary, in honor of Mary, (Mrs. Abner) Yates.

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The annual picnic that is held each July instead of a dinner meeting, was held at the City Reservoir. At this meeting on program no business meeting is planned, but a picnic or basket dinner is spread out on tables. The July, 1971 picnic was attended by the largest group to ever attend one of these picnic's.

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In Memorian

Joe E. Ross 78 June 2, 1971

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Mr. Ross was a Charter Member of the Woodson County Historical Society. In 1970, he took out a life membership.

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Henry A. Wrampe 83 August 10, 1971

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H. A. Wrampe lived his entire life in Woodson County, and was a Charter Member of the Woodson County Historical Society.

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Since the organization of this Historical Society we have lost 14 Charter Members by death. There has been 12 other Charter Members dropped out.

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In keeping the Historical Museum open the two days a week, it is all done strictly with volunteer help. There are usually two people stay each time. The past two years the task of keeping the building open has fallen upon just a few. We have had more volunteers this year.

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Join and Support The
Woodson County Historical Society
Membership Dues
Life Membership-$25.00—Regular Membership $2.00 per calendar year.

ROBERT DALY–

In previous issues of this quarterly we have mentioned the name of Robert Daly, but nothing about his life and family. He was born July 10, 1830 at McKeesport, Penn. of Irish parents. As a young man he worked as a boatman up and down the Monongahela River. He also helped as a boatmaker.

In his work as a flatboatsman he worked with a Thomas McGill and son John McGill in the 1850's. In the later years they all came to Woodson County. The McGill's settled to the east of Rose, in Eminence township.

On September 17, 1850, Robert Daly and Mary Josephine Conway were married in McKeesport. Nine children were born to them. The first four were born at McKeesport, Charity Ann, Henry L., Josephine and William Conway.

Sometime in the 1850's, Daly with his wife and four children loaded their meager goods and themselves in a Conestoga wagon and headed west. They stopped first in Leavenworth county. Here five more children were born; Edward H., Mary Josephine, Robert F., Mary Elizabeth and Anna May were born.

Robert Daly was a trader among the Indians and evidently left on hunting and trading trips, for in the spring of 1857 he came to the Verdigris Valley where the river cuts across Woodson County. During the summer of 1857 he stayed at Sutton's Lake just to the north of Toronto. Here he cut timber and helped build a log hotel at the little log settlement of Pleasant Grove.

Daly settled on a claim in the southwest quarter of section 35, Twp. 24, R. 13. Although he could not get a deed to the place as it was still Indian land, he built a log cabin and sent for his family. With a yoke of six oxen Daly plowed some of the ground along Dry Creek and planted the first corn in that area in 1857.

It was during 1857, that a band of Osage Indians killed one of the oxen belonging to Daly, evidently for the meat and headed south. Daly gathered a posse of 22 men from along Dry Creek and the Verdigris. Horseback and loaded down with guns they started in pursuit. They followed the Indians down the Verdigris River and west to Fall River where the Indians scattered. After going as far as ElDorado and with provisions running short, Daly and the posse returned without making contact with the Indians.

Daly with a Robert Mosley did much trading with the Indians. In 1868 Mosley was killed by Indians, but Daly continued to trade with them. Fort Leavenworth was the best and closest trading post of any size and it was there that Daly would take his wagons loaded with hides, pelts and furs and a string of Indian ponies that he would trade

for. On the return trip to this part of the country he would bring flour, sugar, calico, beads and other articles to trade to the Indians. His trading operations took in this area and on west across the Flint Hills. It was on one of his hunting trips in 1858 that he discovered the Dry Creek Cave.

During the following several years as Robert Daly spent considerable of his time hunting and trading away from home, life in the log cabin not far from the east bank of Dry Creek, bacame one of lonesomeness and hardship for the mother Mary Josephine Daly. In 1859, two of the children Josephine and William Conway died. Three more children died - Mary Josephine in 1861; Charity Ann in 1862, and Mary Elizabeth in 1870. The mother with the remaining children left their home here and returned to McKeesport, Penn. her former home. Daly left the homestead for awhile and spent more time trading with the Indians.

Meanwhile the land along Dry Creek was being settled and for some reason Daly did not file claim on the land where he had built his cabin. Martin Shea received a patent for this quarter section in 1870. Daly then went up the creek where he purchased the northwest quarter of section 25-24-13. He again married, this time to Cynthia (Ozburn) Norris, a widow with five children. On July 23, 1875, a son given the name of Thomas Jefferson Daly was born to them. Thomas Jefferson, known most of his life as "Jeff", was born in the log cabin that his father had built on the farm where Jeff lived his entire life. A daughter was also born to Robert and Cynthia Daly. She died in infancy and was buried in the Virgil Cemetery with her mother.

Robert Daly and wife Cynthia.

For the next six years Daly was rather busy raising his son and five step-children. So he again decided to marry. This time it was to Bridget Garrity (Garaughty), whose father, Henry Garaughty was one of the early settlers along Dry Creek. Two daughters were born to them; Catherine, who was married to Matthew Proud, and Margaret Ellen who died at one year. In time the step children left and Bridget died. Then for quite a few years Robert Daly and son Jeff lived together on the old homestead.

Sometime during the years of 1874-75, Robert Daly who was also a stone mason built the stone schoolhouse, Dist. No. 12, known as the Dry Creek schoolhouse. While the roof was taken off several years ago the old stone building is still standing. Daly was also a Justice of Peace and was known locally as Squire Daly. At one time his farm was known as "Walnut Grove Farm", being 40 acres of walnut hickory and other trees.

Thomas Jefferson Daly was born in a log cabin on the homestead of his father Robert Daly, on July 23, 1875. The Daly farm was the fartherest north of any of the farms up Dry Creek and almost surrounded by pasture land.

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The entire life of 87 years of "Jeff" Daly was spent on this farm. He did some farming, much hunting and riding in the hills around his home. At one time he had a small herd of spotted ponies.

While he never handled any large amount of cattle of his own, Jeff Daly spent many hours and days in the saddle herding and driving cattle for others in the hills around Dry Creek and on west to the Flint Hills.

On April 8, 1899 Jeff Daly was married to Abbie L. Sharp. Unto them were born four children-Robert Jefferson, May, Walter E. and Clarence W.

Robert was born in 1900, contacted typhoid fever and died at the age of 28 years. He was a lover of horses and dogs. He spent much time riding and hunting. He was a bronc rider at home and at rodeos.

May was married to Charles T. Johnson. They had two children; Velva Jean and Merrill T.

Clarence was married to Helen Simpson. Their children were Zane and Zee.

The Daly ranch home like so many other homes over the county has been sold, and no one lives there anymore. For many years the activity around this home was taming and breaking and riding horses.

MESSAGE IN STONE — Indian writing, believed to be in the Osage tribe's language, is examined by T. J. Daly on boulders in a large cave near his ranch 10 miles north of Toronto, Kan. Daly said his father could read the writing but he, himself, never learned to do so.

PIQUA – Cont.

In 1903 a newspaper was published called the "Piqua Herald". It was published at Neosho Falls and was rather short-lived. It began on February 6 and discontinued May 29, 1903. An entire volume as published is on file in the Kansas State Historical Society at Topeka.

Three young boys grew up with the town of Piqua. They were about the same age. Each was named William, and spent much time together. They attended church and school together and served as alter boys together, but there comes a time when the best of friends must part.

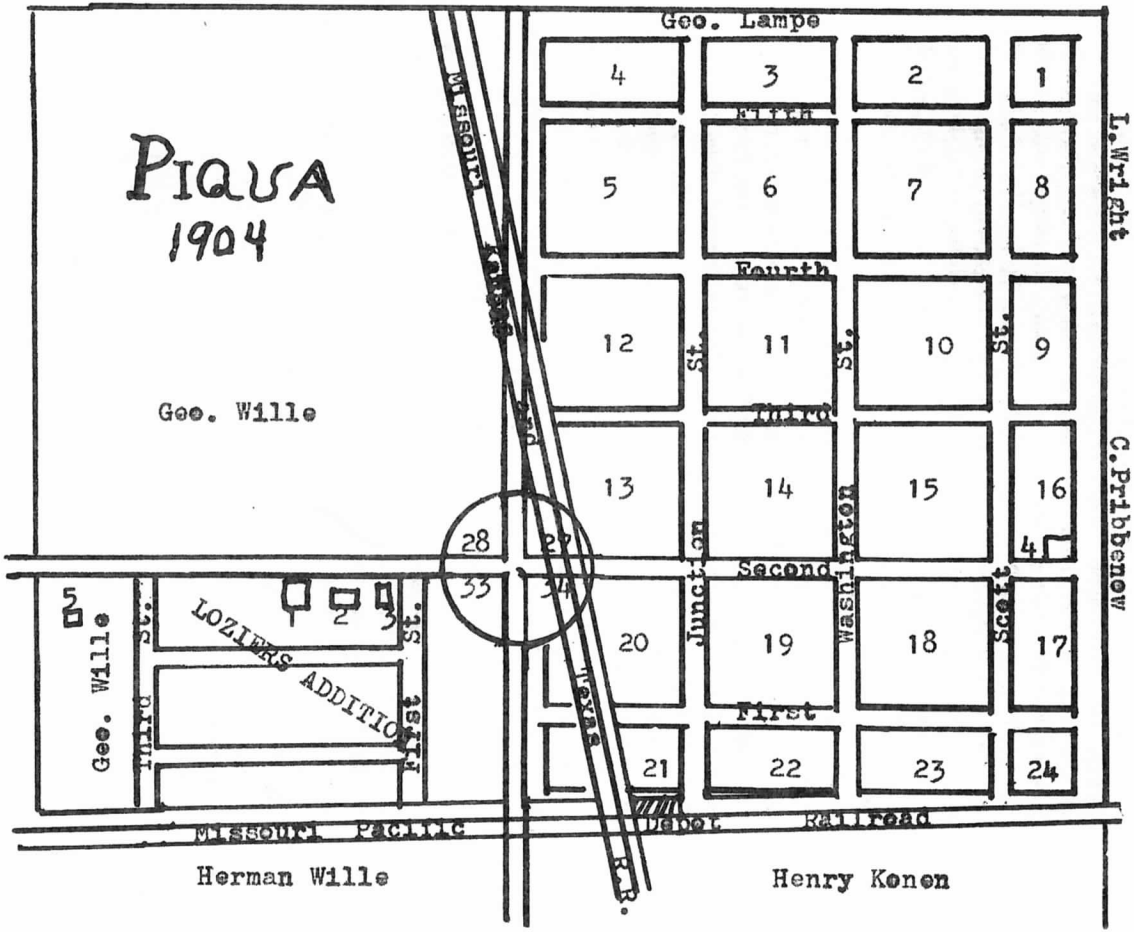
William Kipp became a priest and served as a priest for more than 50 years, and died in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

William Grogman became a railroader as a telegraph operator and died in Kansas City some years ago.

William O'Donnell became a farmer, school teacher, rural mail carrier and for more than 50 years as a banker in Yates Center. In 1967 he and Mrs. O'Donnell observed their 68th wedding anniversary.

In the early days of Piqua it could boast of a shoe shop operated by a little old red-headed Irishman named Jimmy Vaughn, known to all as Uncle Jimmie. He was not a shoe cobbler but a shoemaker. If you wanted a pair of shoes or boots he took your measurements and made them by hand. The first pair of high top boots worn by W. J. O'Donnell were made by "Uncle Jimmy", and cost $7.00 He also made a pair of boots for Patrick O'Donnell. "Uncle Jimmy" was a relative of the Heffron's of Owl Creek township.

1-Catholic Church
2-Rectory
3-School
4-Methodist Church
5-Mill
6-Depot
Center of the Circle is the four Section corner.



In 1886 Piqua had a small-pox epidemic. Dr. J. L. Jones from Neosho Falls was the health officer and set up a tent in the west part of town and vaccinated many of the town people and waited on the sick. He had the town quarantined for six weeks. All children were forbidden to leave their own yards. Guards were placed on all roads leading to town. Adults were allowed to come to town to do their trading. Travelers were told to drive through and not stop. There were a number of cases, but only one death, a young man, Bert McKinsey, a son of Mr. and Mrs. John McKinsey. It left quite a few badly pock-marked.

This is a brief history of Piqua that during its first twenty years had grown to a thriving little city with a number of stores, a lumber yard, blacksmith shop, two hotels, a restaurant, a livery stable, the railroads were doing a good business. Four passenger trains, four local freight and several extra freights, employed an agent, telegraph operator and a baggageman.

Almost ninety years later Piqua is still a thriving town, although it has changed considerably. After the death of the bank president, John Wille the bank was sold to Webb Dreiling. Dreiling built a new house just to the south of the St. Martin's Church, a half mile south of the main street of the town. In 1971 the bank was moved to the Dreiling home as he moved to Iola. For many years the Piqua State Bank has been the lifeline of Piqua and surrounding territory.

The Farmer's Co-op Elevator and Piqua Grain Co. do a good business in dealing with farmers over a wide area. A general store, tavern, barber shop, Sophisicated Chicken Cafe, a Co-op store, a hardware and lumber yard closed down and sold out in 1971. The general store owned and operated by Ed Neiman is the oldest established business in the town.

A Rural Water station that brings water from the Neosho River at Neosho Falls has taken over the old town well.

The St. Francis Catholic Church still is very active under the pastorate of Rev. I. J. Rohr who has been pastor there for the past fifteen years.

The Piqua school is the only elementary school in the county outside of Yates Center, although the Piqua school is a part of Unified Dist. No. 366, Yates Center.

The M.K.T., railroad north from Piqua was disbanded and the track torn up several years ago. The Katy south from town was taken over by the Missouri Pacific. The depot that served both railway companies for several years has been moved from its location and will be used for storage purposes by the Piqua Grain Co. This depot however was evidently not the original depot according to this news item taken from the Woodson County Advocate, Yates Center, of May 24, 1912.

"Fire at Piqua about 1:30 o'clock Monday destroyed the joint station of the Missouri Pacific and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas. The origin of the fire is unknown, but is supposed to have caught from a spark from an M.K.T. engine. As there was no water protection at that place there was no chance for saving the building, but with the fire occurring at mid-day there was sufficient help secured to save the contents of the building. Telegraphic communication was re-established Tuesday."

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— O'Donnell's—

Patrick O'Donnell, as mentioned, moved his family into the small frame section house to be the first family to move into the first house in the town. He was the only son of William and Margaret O'Donnell, and was born in County Limmerick, Ireland, in 1852. At the age of 21 year years he left his native land and came to America, locating at Pittsburg Pennsylvania, then coming west he located at Paola, Kansas.

In 1877, Patrick O'Donnell was married to Miss Anstena Ellen Schifelbein, who was born in Berlin, Germany, 1857. They started housekeeping in a log cabin along the Maraides Cyne River in Miami, County. Like many of his country men in those days, O'Donnell took up railroading as his occupation. In 1880 he joined the track department of the Fort Scott, Wichita and Western Railroad Co., now the Missouri-Pacific, which was then building from Fort Scott to Wichita. When the road was completed west of Piqua he was assigned as section foreman at that place.

Later he became roadmaster of the Fort Scott Division and then accepted a position as general raodmaster of the entire Cotton Belt Railroad system of the state of Texas. In 1906 he retired from the railroad and joined his family then living on a farm along Cherry Creek, five miles west and a mile south of Piqua.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick were; Wm. J. who was born in the log cabin in Miami Co. He was married to Miss Mary Eisenbart, Katherine (Mrs. John Heffron), Patrick J. Ellen who was married to James C. Schnell, Henry, James J. and May (Mrs. Arlie Pringle).

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Piqua 75 years ago — Yates Center News, July, 1896 —

News from Piqua-The picnic at Heimans on the 4th passed off pleasantly and all report a good time.

The dance at the Piqua Hall on the night of the fourth was well attended. The music was good and refreshments were served in the basement.

The Wille Brothers are busy threshing in this vicinity at present.

Farmers are busy stacking flax and making hay.

The Piqua baseball nine went well prepared to the ball ground Sunday, taking with them the doctor and undertaker. We have not heard if their services were required while there, but we are pleased to say the Piqua nine won the stakes.

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The Farmer's Advocate-Yates Center—February 21, 1896—

Miss Nettie Osborn, Piqua was in Yates Center this week. Miss Osburn is Piqua's milliner and was here buying goods from eastern drummers.

Jacob Haen went to Elk City, Kansas, last week on business.

The social dance at the C. M. B. A. Hall was well attended.

There was a little gathering at J. D. Smidt's last Friday night.

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There will be more about the Piqua vicinity in the next issue of this quarterly.

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Yates Center News - August 14, 1896—

A half crazy man by the name of James Noah from South Enid, Oklahoma, struck Yates Center the latter part of last week and asked officers of the law for protection, saying a band of outlaws were after him. The officers took care of him until Sunday night when the stranger quietly left town and stole a horse belonging to Meade Davidson, one mile north of town. He rode the animal to Strawn, Coffey Co. that night.

The next morning Meade came to town and notified officers and had some cards printed, describing the animal. The sheriff sent out telegrams and soon had an answer from the sheriff of Coffey Co. stating he had the man and the horse. The fellow had done the same thing at Burlington that he did here, demanding protection from an imaginery enemy.

Sheriff Hunt went to Burlington and returned with man and horse. Tuesday he took the fellow to Wichita and started him back to Enid. He had ridden Meade's horse all night bareback with only a halter to guide with.

COPY OF OLD SURVEYOR MAP-

Two miles north of the Woodson-Wilson county lines is a row of lots that run across the county from east to west. The north row of lots are the largest, and the north side of these lots is known as the south boundary of the New York Indian Reservation. This is just four miles south of the Fifth Parallel Line. On the south of these lots mentioned are a narrow row of lots that the south side of them was known as the north boundary of the Osage Indian Trust Land. The New York Indians never came to claim their land and it was opened for pre-emption and homesteading around 1860.

This land above these lots was surveyed by government engineers starting with the Parallel Line in 1856 the year after Woodson County was organized. While the land below the north boundary of the Osage Indian Trust Lands was settled by early white settlers at the same time as to the north the Osage Land was not surveyed until 1866 and was not opened for homesteading until 1869. In other words the early settlers built their cabins, broke out the sod, and staked their own claims, but could get no legal claim for the land.

The map shown was surveyed in 1866. The parallel lines indicate early trails and wagon roads, the round figures indicate timber and shaded areas indicate cropland. The cropland would not all be shown as the surveyor only show the cropland that his survey lines went through. The same is true of the cabins or houses. Just the ones that the survey lines came close to would be mentioned.

J. Bozeman seemed to live on the east side of the creek where the new large cement bridge crosses Big Sandy.

(1) is where the last Big Sandy school house stood.

(2) is the Daniel log cabin as we know it now, just over the line into Wilson County. An interesting note by the surveyor reads: "House of Joshia Daniel bears south 3 chains. Sandy Creek 80 links wide but deep." This was along the county line going east. "Set corner to sections 34, 35, 2 & 3. A sand stone from which a post oak 20 inches in diameter bears north 50 degrees, west 18 links. A post oak 20 inches in diameter, bears south 34 degrees, west 103 links. A black oak 18 inches in diameter, bears south 7½ degrees, 150 links. Land is rolling, soil 1st rate. Timber elm, oak, walnut and hickory. Dec. 1866."

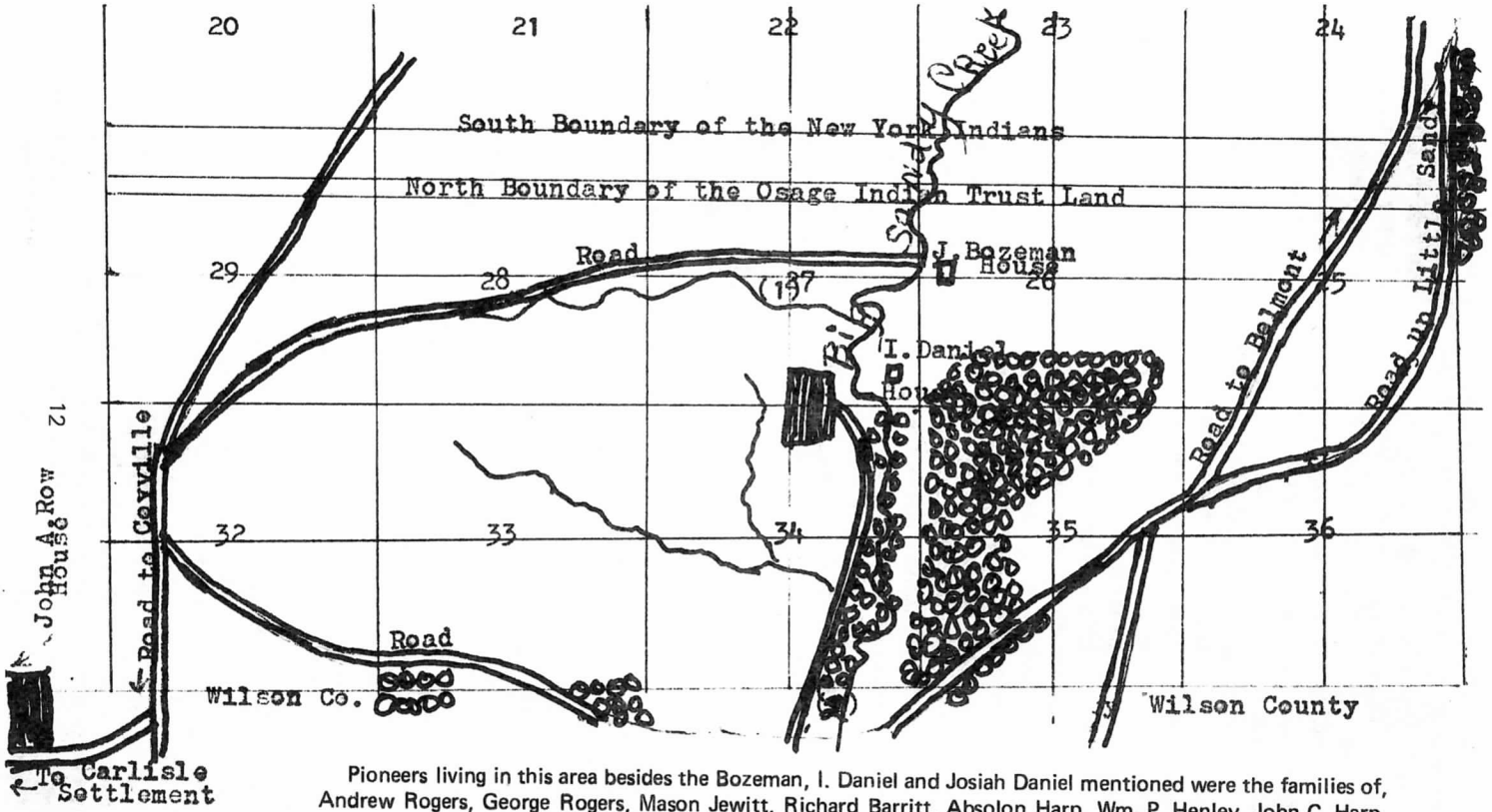
In the south east corner of the map was the home of John A. Row. His house was in Woodson County while most of the cropland was in Wilson, with the west side of the cropland along the Verdigris River. The Row house was along the north side of what is now the Toronto Dam spillway area road. The I. Daniel house listed on the map was very near where the Ruben Daniel log cabin was built in 1856.

NIKKELTOWN – A GERMAN-RUSSIAN COLONY

While it was never really a town, never had a postoffice, not even a store, the settlement known as Nikkeltown has hinged around the crossroads where the Nikkeltown School District No. 43 was built. This was eight miles north and and six miles west from Yates Center.

To rightfully tell the story of the people who settled that vicinity it is perhaps better to go back to the time before the colony of German-Russians came to America. During the reign of Catherine 11, who was Empress of Russia, for some reasons she sought people of other countries to come to Russia to live there. For inducement she offered certain concessions to last for a period of 100 years. Chiefly among these concessions was the exemption from compulsary military training.

The people of whom this article is about were residents of West Prussia, Germany. They were of the Mennonite faith and the military exemption greatly appealed to them. So with their families they settled near Einlough, in Southern Russia. They lived here for several years until the death of Empress Catherine. Her successor evidently did not follow her plans and military training was forced upon the people.



Pioneers living in this area besides the Bozeman, I. Daniel and Josiah Daniel mentioned were the families of, Andrew Rogers, George Rogers, Mason Jewitt, Richard Barritt, Absolon Harp, Wm. P. Henley, John C. Harp, Elias Blevins, Ruben Daniel, Lloyd Daniel, Will Clemens. There were no doubt more families than we mentioned.

After winning the Class B Championship for three years straight the Yates Center American Legion Baseball team lost out in their fourth attempt. They were successful in winning on strange fields, but lost out as they hosted the Class B State Tournament, July 31 and August 1, 1971. On their first game the Yates Center team won 2 to 0 over the Kansas City, Kansas American Legion B team. On Sunday afternoon, Yates Center lost a heart-breaker to Caney by a score of 1 to 0. The Caney pitcher hit a home run over the center fence for the only score of the game.

Members of the 1971 Legion team are L. to R., back row; Howard Newland, manager; Wesley Smith, Joe Gregg, Larry Horst, Daniel Saulsberry, David Saulsberry, John Horst, Joe Davis, Steve Ryan and head coach Bill Burghart. Front row: Jimmy Haynes bat boy, Chuck Mossman, Steve Hensley, Brad Edwards, Kerri Hamman, Rex Watts, Danny Heffern, Robert Baker, Mike Peterson and bat boy Tommy Haybes. Gregg Old, another member of the team was not present when the picture was taken.

The people of whom this story deals were a thrifty, hardworking, God fearing people and as their plans and lives were rather upset in Russia their eyes were turned to America. They in turn came in touch with officials of the M.K.&T. Railway. Several years previous to this the M.K.&T. Railroad had been given large tracts of land by the State of Kansas for developement and colonization purposes. A deal was made between the railroad officials and the Mennonite leaders.

When the M.K. & T. Railroad had been built across the northeast corner of Woodson County early in the 1870's much of the land around Neosho Falls had been pre-emptied by early settlers, so the State of Kansas offered the railroad land farther from the railroad. Much of this land was in the northwest part of Woodson County. The railroad received a patent for much of this land in 1873.

In due course of time in the 1870's, evidently around 1878 a colony of these German-Russians arrived in Woodson County; 18 families in all. The task then faced them of building homes and breaking the native sod, but the greatest task was in caring for their families while building their homes. This difficulty was partly overcome through the courtesy of Charles H. Weide who at that time was a prominent land owner and stock raiser along upper Turkey Creek. He offered them the use of his sheep barn. This was a large two story barn with the lower part made of native sandstone and the upper part of native boards. When the colony arrived they moved enmasse into the sheep barn. This was a large barn but 18 families of men, women, and children evidently filled it.

A complete list of these families could not be obtained, but the following families made up most of the group: Peter J. Nikkel, Peter F. Nikkel, Benjamin Nikkel, David Nikkel, Henry Bergman, Peter Krocker, Peter Unger, D. Remple, Franz Arndt, David Dyke, —— Janson, —— Rymer, William Swartz, Bernard Paul. Quite a few came later. Among these were John Klingenburg, Cornelious Klingenberg, Henry Nikkel, —— Kircoff, —— Krause, Cornelious Nikkel, —— Klassen, —— Sharonoff. Later there were more Klingenburg, Nikkel, and Neufelds.

The leader of this group was Bernard Paul (Pronounced Powell). He was also a lay preacher of the Mennonite faith, and seemed to be a wealthy man, later owning considerable land along Duck Creek. It was told that he assisted members of the group financially during hard times, which eventually led to his downfall.

Most of these families settled in what is now the Nikkeltown vicinity, while several settled to the north and east along Duck Creek. Most of the land cost from $2.00 to $5.00 an acre, while some of the group took their farms on contract from the railroad. The first of this colony came here around 1878 and another around 1882.

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THE SOD SHANTIES ON THE PLAIN—

While their families were settled in the old sheep barn the men started in building their homes. Franz was a stone mason and built a few rock houses but for the most part sod houses were built. At one time there were around 20 of these soddies within a radius of two

miles of Nikkelton corner. This is the corner where the Robert Edwards home is. These people had been used to the "mud" houses in southern Russia.

The native bluestem sod was plowed in strips about five or six inches deep and twelve inches wide. A shovel or ax was used to cut the sod into blocks the length needed or wanted, usually around three feet long. These blocks were built layer upon layer, breaking joints as in laying bricks or rocks. Door and window frames were put in where and when desired. In some cases the rafters were poles cut along the creek with a larger one for a ridge pole. These pole rafters were then crossed with lighter poles and brush. The 'shingles' were made of the tall, tough, pliable slough grass that grew along the sloughs and draws. This grass was cut, twisted tight, tied together and entwined in such a manner to make it a waterproof thatch roof. They were tied in bundles and laid overlapping each other like shingles.

These houses all had dirt floors, swept clean and hard. Sometimes the walls were plastered with a mixture of mud and straw. After the soddies were built for some time the heavy rains would to a certain extent wash the dirt away from the sod roots, making it necessary at times to cover the outside with the mud mixture.

Some of their barns and chicken houses were built of sod. These people seemed to have known their business in this sod building as several of these sod huts remained around Nikkeltown for many years.

The language of these people seemed to be rather odd, as neither German or Russian as spoken by the Germans here at that time, but was commonly called "flat Dutch". The language was evidently a dialect of the Germans as the Bible they used was printed in German. These people brought and used their own ideas and customs but would try anything in the line of crops that would be beneficial to them. It was told that they introduced the first flax to any extent in this part of the country. At one time they raised large fields of castor beans. Mulberry trees were also one of the things brought here with them.

One of the farming tools made and used by these people was a large stone, hewed round, the shape something like a barrel. Corrugations were cut lengthwise on it. A hole was in the center on each end and bolts driven in these holes. This was used as a roller, and rolling over wheat bundles to thresh out the grain. One of these rollers laid around the barnyard of the farm just west of the schoolhouse for years, until someone came and hauled it away.

CHURCH—

As stated these people were of the Mennonite faith and brought their religious beliefs and customs with them. Bernard Pauls, one of the leaders was also a preacher and it was in his home the first church services were held by these Mennonites. A schoolhouse was built of native sandstone in the southwest corner of section 24-24-14, and church services were held in the schoolhouse from that time. A lean to room was built on the north side of the stone building that was used occasionally by these people, as a kitchen, when these people would be all day at the schoolhouse for church services. Church services would be held on Sunday mornings. Some families would go home for dinner and back in the afternoon for Sunday School.

As mentioned before their language was called "Flat Dutch", or as referred to as "Low German". Their Bible and hymn books were printed in German.

They used just one song book. The leader would read the words in a verse, they would sing that verse, the leader would read another verse and they would sing until the song was completed. No musical instrument was used. Weddings and funeral sevices were performed in the schoolhouse. After Bernard Paul sold his ranch and left, the ministerial services were taken over by Peter J. Nikkel.

A small plot of ground just to the north of the schoolhouse yard was set aside as a burial ground for the members of this group who died here during their stay here. Several of this group, both children and adults were buried in the little cemetery. Some graves are marked, but more are unmarked and will probably remain unknown.

Around 1900 the wanderlust again came over these people to move on. This time they moved enmasse to Marion County, Kansas, where a group of their people had settled. A few of this colony stayed around Nikkeltown for awhile and then moved on. A very few stayed in Woodson Co. The name of the school and the little cemetery are all that is left to remind one of the colony that was so numerous in that vicinity before the turn of the century.

* * * * * *

The majority of these German-Russians obtained the patents or deeds for their land in 1880. Some were bought outright and some were obtained on contracts.

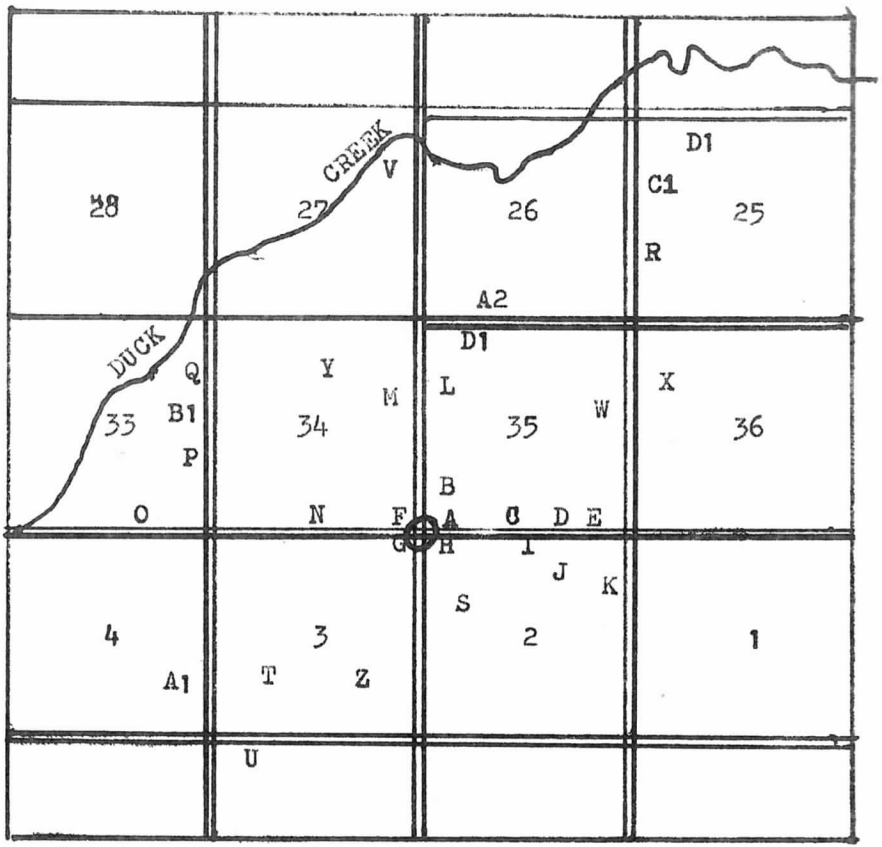
In 1880, John and August Klingenberg received a patent for the southeast quarter of section 19, Twp. 23, R. 15. This was along Duck Creek. A crude stone house was built in the south side of a bend in the creek. The house was built on a stone ledge with the floor being a solid rock. August sold his interest to John. There were several John Klingenberg's. We do not know just which one this was. They lost three children while living here. The children were buried along the south side of the creek not far from the rock house.

It was in the fall of 1885, that John Neufeld, his wife Marie and five children, John, Mary, Henry, Eva, and Pete arrived in the Nikkeltown area in an open wagon. They had arrived in New York the proceeding spring from Russia. We have an interesting story about this group in some travels in Asia before coming to America that we may tell at a later date.

They had first came to Marion County, Kansas, where the elder, John Neufeld had relatives. Mrs. Neufeld had relatives in the German-Russian colony at Nikkeltown so they came on to Woodson County. They first moved into a sod house about a half mile east of Nikkeltown where they lived for about five years and than moved on, with the exception of John, Henry, and Eva. Marie Neufeld was the stepmother of these three. Their mother had died in their nomadic travels in Asia before coming here.

Eva was married to Peter Unger, and at the age of 19, just 12 years after arriving here Eva died at childbirth and was buried with her baby in an unmarked grave in the Nikkeltown cemetery, known at that time as the "Nikkle's burying ground."

The circle is Nikkeltown Corner
A-Nikkeltown School-43
B-Cemetery
C-Peter F. Nikkel
D-David Nikkel
E-Henry Nikkel
F-Benj. Nikkel
G-David Dyke
H-Henry Bergman
I-Unknown
J-Peter Krocker
K-John "Red" Klingenburg
L-Jacob Krause
M-William Schwartz
N-Cornelius Nikkel
O- Rymer
P-Peter W. Johnson
Q-Peter Unger
R-Henry Nikkel, Jr.
S-Dedrick Remple
T-Benjamin J. Nikkel
U- Kirkoff
V-Bernard Pauls
W-C.M. Benjamin
X-Franz Arndt
Y-David Dyke
Z-Peter J. Nikkel
A1-Catherine Peters
B1- Peter Schoenhoff
C1-Henry Krause
D1-Jacob Krause
A2-Cornelius Klingengerg



There were around 25 sod houses and at least two rock houses in this group.

In 1900, John Neufeld was married to Miss Mary Weide. They had two children, Fred and Luella (Mrs. Gail Edwards).

Henry Neufeld was married to Miss Amelia Steinforth. Their children were: Lillian Mrs. Fred Light), John, Louis,, and Louise (Mrs. Nelson Weide). They lost a small son, Leonard. We will tell more about John and Henry Neufeld later.

In the little cemetery that was used as a burying place for these people, there are a few marked graves that can be read, but it seems like there are more unmarked and unknown graves than there are marked. This cemetery is maintained and kept up by the Askren Cemetery Association. For many years it was left idle and grown up to brush and trees.

* * * * * *

One of the first to settle in the Nikkeltown area was George Carpenter, a veteran of the Civil War, who came here in 1870, and established a stock farm on Duck Creek, a mile west and a mile and half north of the Nikkeltown corner. This was known for years as the Carpenter Ranch. Mr. Carpenter, who became a well-known man in Woodson County was born in Chenango County, New York in July, 1838. As a young man he went to LaSalle County, Illinois. Here he taught school for several years. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the Seventy-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Afterwards he was commissioned as captain of Company C, Sixty-Sixth United States Colored Troops. After the war he returned to Illinois and in April 1869 he was married to Miss Laura Scovel.

The following year, 1870, the Carpenters came to Woodson and developed the ranch on Duck Creek. They were the parents of four daughters, Dora E. (Bigelow), Mabel L. (Wamsley) Edna A. and Jessie C. Carpenter. In later years Edna A. was married to Cale Wamsley.

In 1874, George Carpenter was elected as Clerk of Court. He held this position for six years and then was elected as surveyor. In the meantime the family had moved to Yates Center. Carpenter was elected as the first president of the First National Bank when it was organized.

Miss Edna Carpenter was teacher and principal of the Yates Center High School for several years.

CEDARVALE SCHOOL-DISTRICT NO. 69—

District was one of the later of the rural schools of Woodson County. It was in the latter part of the 1880's, around 1887-88, that a group of people in that vicinity met at the home of Lewis Klick, whose home was along Cedar Creek. The meeting was for the purpose of organizing a school district. This was Dist. No. 69. The first school board board members of this new school were W. P. Lytle, Lewis Klick and James W. Tipton. The first teacher told about was Jennie M. Greene, who taught a term of three months. The first recorded teacher we found was Nannie Mauck, whose term of school started on October 6, 1890.

The first schoolhouse was a small frame building built on the Seiker farm, in the southwest corner of section 21-Twp., 25-R, 14. This was

a mile north and a mile west of Batesville. Less than a mile to the west was the Cedar Creek valley. It is believed that is where the name of Cedarvale derived from.

Lewis Klick and N. L. Allen helped in the organization of the former Batesville U. B. Church, in this schoolhouse in which church services were held for several years.

This picture of the Cedarvale School was taken in 1895-96. Pupils in the back row are L. to R. : Harvey Womak, Harvey Willaby, the man and woman are unidentified, George Tipton, Floyd Field. Center row: Foley Fields, Tommy Murphy, Betty Ireland, teacher, Elmer Willsby, Harry Fields, Wray Womak. Front row: A. Worlene Tipton, Flora Willaby, Georgia Fields, Leland Stockton.

One commencement for diploma's was held at Dist. No. 69, with several districts participating. Charles Gorman of Stony Point; Charles Gustin, Dry Creek; Alice Winters of Cedarvale and others that were in that class of 1900.

The term of school taught here in 1917-18, the teacher was Gertrude Huff, (Mrs. Howard Gibbs). Pupils going this term were: Lauren Sieker, Lavelle Redfern, Pearl Sieker, Lester Colborn, Theodore Boterof, Helen Colborn, Olive Meairs, Donald Colborn, Dorothy Redfearn, Cecil Weide, Lloyd Weide, May Meairs, Freddie Guenther, Luella Redfearn, Clair Meairs, Clive Meairs, Johnnie Sieker, Mildred Meairs, Cornelius McNitt, Bluford McNitt, Glenn Counterman, Grace Counterman, Lucy Counterman, Wells Hearn, Carl Hearn.

During the 1930's quite a productive oil field was developed in the area surrounding this school. So it was decided that a new schoolhouse was needed. On April 8, 1938, the time set for the annual school meeting a blizzard came in out of the north piling snow deep in the roadways and oilways of the district making it a hardship for any one to get beyond their own threshold. The three schoolboard members

were the only ones to make it to the school meeting. They were: A. W. Tipton, Fred McNitt and H. L. Klick.

Plans for the new building were started. At an election on June.11, 1938, bonds were voted, and due course the new schoolhouse was built. A Mr. Hawthrone was the builder.

The last term of school held at Dist. No. 69 was in 1959-60. The teacher was Mae Morris. Pupils going this term were: Linda Klick, Stephen Roberts, Kenny Taylor, Connie Rife, Gerry Douglas, Joyce Ellen Griffith, Beth Klick, Sherry Holmquest, Mary Rife, Allen Taylor, Joyce Klick, Bill Douglas, Ronald Holmquest, Barbara Klick, Richard Tipton, and Gordon McNitt.

Other teachers at Cedarvale, Dist. No. 69 were: Emma Story, Jennie Klick, Bessie Winter, Bettie Huff, Birdie Mathew, Flora Ireland, Mertie Millson, Minnie Baursfeld, Alice Winter, Dora Bayer, Dora Hassenpflug, Bessie Story, Minnie Harris, Mabel Miller, Effie A. Mitchell, Marjorie Martin, Ada Stark, Ethel Willaby, Mabel Toedman, Lucia Tipton, Ellen Gentry, Florence Fuhlage, Francis Klick, Opal Willaby, Irene Adamson, Bertha Shepard, Sybil Sager, Anna Fell, Barbara Schooling, Agnes Ogilvie, Mrs. Irma Smith.

THE CENTER RIDGE SCHOOL—

The Center Ridge School was situated in the center of section 25, Twp. 26, R. 16. We will not attempt to give the history of the school at this time, but just the picture of the upper grades. There were around 60 pupils attending the Center Ridge School at different times.

Seated left to right are: Grace Brown-Anderson, Carl Stoll, Nellie Brown-Hanson, M. M. Booe, teacher, Edith Culver-Shotts, Ralph Malin. Standing l. to r.:George Brock, Roy Reed, Olive Culver, Keith Culver, Lee Stoll, Elsie Jones-Stoll, Leslie Brown, Ray Jones, Ray Stoll, Edna Brown Gurwell, John Lorance, Minor Hutchinson is the boy to the left of the teacher.

THE KELLOGG FAMILY–

A family that had much to do with the historical development of the southwest part of Woodson County were the Kelloggs. Edwin and Amelia Kellogg were natives of White Pigeon, St. Joseph County, Michigan. They came to Woodson County in the spring of 1857 and settled on a farm.

Edwin Kellogg received a patent from the U.S. Government for the southwest quarter of Section 35 Twp., 25 R., 13. The south side of the homestead was along the Parallel Line and the west side along Greenwood County. On a high bluff overlooking the Verdigris Valley the Kellogg's built a log cabin, and soon entered into the affairs of that vicinity. A son, Seth R. Kellogg, who was a lad of 12 years when coming here helped with the farming.

About the same time that the Kelloggs came here a log settlement called Pleasant Grove was started about a quarter of a mile to the west of their homestead. A postoffice was established at Pleasant Grove on July 7, 1857. Edwin Kellogg was the third postmaster of Pleasant Grove and this was their postoffice address for several years.

In 1869 the town site of Toronto was laid out less than two miles south of the Kellogg homestead. The first building erected in the new townsite was a small frame building used as a residence and store by Wm. P. Dennis.

The second building at Toronto was erected by Seth R. Kellogg, who was 24 years old at that time. Seth used the building as a store, and was a part of his store for several years later. On June 22, 1870, a postoffice was established in the store of Seth R. Kellogg with him as the first postmaster.

The starting of the Toronto postoffice was the inauguration of the stage mail route from Humboldt. Up to this time settlers in that area had got their mail from Pleasant Grove,, which has received its mail by stage from LeRoy. Upon the starting of Toronto the postoffice at Pleasant Grove was discontinued and the papers brought to Toronto, on the same day the office at Toronto was started. But over some disagreement with Toronto the postoffice as re-established at Pleasant Grove December 8, 1870, and continued until February 3, 1874, when again again the papers were brought to Toronto. Seth R. Kellogg was postmaster at Toronto until 1876, when he was elected as Representative from Woodson County to the Kansas State Legislature. Seth R. Kellogg and Catherine M. Rowe were married near Toronto, in September, 1871. Catherine was a daughter of Elias D. and Sarah Rowe, who were early day settlers in that area. They had two children, Lela and Glen S. Kellogg.

Again in 1882, S. R. Kellogg became postmaster of Toronto, and held it until 1885.

PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John V. Glades Agency
Woodson County Co-op
State Exchange Bank
Street Abstract Co.
Schornick Oil Co.
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
Walter A. Bowers
Hi-Way Food Basket
Farmers Co-op, Piqua
Gaulding Oil Co.
Harry O. Ashley
Swope & Son Impl. Co.
H. R. Campbell & Sons
Furniture & Undertaking
Clyde Hill
Whelan Lumber Co.
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac
Paul C. Laidlaw
Krueger Cleaners
Gambles—Friendly Store
Rogers Bros. Garage
Charles H. Carpenter
Newtex Manufacturing Co.
Yates Center Skelgas Service
J. C. Schnell
Wood-Perkins Dept. Store
Woodson Hotel & Cafe
Al's Jewelry
First National Bank—Toronto
Security Oil Co.
Blackjack Cattle Co.
Yates Center Elevator Co.
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor—Gen. Agent
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Daly Western Supply
Payeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Atkin Clinic
Dyer Chevrolet Co.
Henry E. Stephenson
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Light Hardware
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Brown's Western Auto
Donald E. Ward
Wilma Mark
Milton Wrampe
E. E. Light
Yates Center News
Everybody's Grocery
Pringle Ranch—J. W. & J. Richard
Baker Rexall Drug Store
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home